

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNOR'S P-20 COUNCIL**  
**General Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2006**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**Location:** 1700 W. Washington  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

**Members Present:** Governor Janet Napolitano, Dr. Rufus Glasper, Cathleen Barton, Amy Besing, Dr. Karen Butterfield for Superintendent Tom Horne, Mark Bryce, Ernie Calderon, Susan Carlson, Dr. Michael Crow, Dr. David Curd, George Dean, Dr. Matthew Diethelm, Gregory Donovan, Bill Estes, Dr. Sybil Francis, Dr. Roy Flores, Harry Garewal, Bob Hagen, Dr. John Haeger, Jack Jewett, Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, Dean Phillips, Cindy Rudrud, Kristen Rex, and Jack Swanson

**Members Absent:** Dr. Angel Cabrera, Lynda French, Vivian Gonzales, Mayor Phil Gordon, Dr. Peter Likins, Cathy McKee, Dr. Douglas Olesen, Dr. Jim Zaharis, Senators Toni Hellon and Harry Mitchell (ex-officio), Representatives Ann Kirkpatrick and Laura Knaperek (ex-officio).

**1. Call to Order & Welcome**

Dr. Glasper called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. He welcomed everyone and indicated that Governor Janet Napolitano would be joining the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Glasper expressed recognition of the importance of today's meeting as the Council would be hearing a presentation on the Alignment Project Report, which will form the cornerstone for much of the future work of the Council.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

- November 18, 2005
- December 6, 2005

There being no discussion or corrections, Dr. David Curd moved approved of the November 18, 2005 and December 6, 2005 P-20 Council meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Harry Garewal and unanimously approved.

**3. Presentation & Discussion: Access to Higher Education – JCC Recommendations**

Dr. Larry Christiansen, Dr. John Haeger, and Regent Ernie Calderon presented an update on the JCC recommendations for improving affordable access to baccalaureate degrees.

Dr. Haeger introduced the presentation indicating that Dr. Christiansen would provide an overview on Recommendations 1-4 and that he would discuss the critical issues surrounding Recommendations 5 and 6. Dr. Haeger indicated that the two dominating principles that

guided the work on the recommendations were that Arizona has a good higher education system and that the recommendations would do no harm to what currently exists.

Regent Calderon commented that the consensus reached on the JCC Recommendations was due to Dr. Haeger and Dr. Christiansen and thanked them for their hard work and leadership. Regent Calderon also stated that there has been considerable concern by the private post-secondary institutions, but that the work of the JCC focused on public institutions only.

Dr. Christiansen then updated the Council on the JCC Executive Summary and the first four recommendations:

1. Increase transfer credits for selected programs;
2. Increases the number and scope of community college-university partnerships;
3. Establish joint funding models;
4. Expand Arizona University systems campuses and statewide programs.

Dr. Christiansen provided examples of how these 4 recommendations are already being accomplished through 2+2 and 3+1 programs at various institutions; the NAU/AWC collaborative; UofA/Cochise Community College collaborative; as well as small, but targeted, partnerships between some public and private institutions (e.g. Mesa Community College and Ottawa); and that these types of programs would move forward institution by institution. Dr. Christiansen emphasized that all of these issues must be approached looking at the funding models.

Dr. Haeger then discussed the two issues that originally had disagreement by JCC:

5. Develop a pathway for baccalaureate degrees at community colleges;
6. Explore the need and create a pathway for a 4-year regional degree granting college.

When the JCC was unable to agree on these final two recommendations, Regent Calderon appointed Dr. Haeger and Dr. Christiansen to work as a committee to find a solution. Dr. Haeger indicated that, using a systemic approach, he and Dr. Christiansen worked to reach a compromise that received consensus by the JCC as well as ACCA.

For issue No. 5, developing a pathway for baccalaureate degrees at community colleges, the major issue to be resolved was determining a review process based on established criteria. The review process developed included a process for determining:

- Need;
- Determining the University Program Provider;
- Determining the Non-University Program Provider; and
- Program criteria

For issue no. 6, a pathway for a 4-year regional degree granting college, the process would be the same as outlined for developing a pathway for baccalaureate degrees at community colleges. In addition, the following pre-conditions would need to be addressed:

- Local community college board has indicated both the need and willingness to support expansion of the respective community college mission;
- There is limited university access for students in the region;
- Appropriate accreditation is available and could be obtained;
- Sufficient infrastructure exists to support a baccalaureate degree granting college
- An implementation plan is developed and submitted to JCC, the
- Legislature, office of the Governor, and the Arizona Board of Regents;

- Governance issues are addressed between the community college board, ABOR, the legislature and the appropriate accrediting agencies.

Recommendations 1-4, approved by the JCC in September 2005, were endorsed by the Arizona Community College Association in November 2005 and the Arizona Board of Regents in December 2005. Recommendations 5 and 6, approved at the December 14, 2005 JCC meeting, were approved by ACCA on January 27, 2006 and the Arizona Board of Regents on February 2, 2006.

The Council had a brief discussion on the information presented. Dr. Laura Palmer Noone indicated that the private post-secondary institutions opposed recommendations 5 and 6. Dr. Noone indicated that while she could support the first four recommendations, there were two flaws in recommendations 5 and 6: the recommendations didn't consider the role of private post-secondary institutions nor had they been invited to participate in the discussions; and that the recommendations did not come with a cost analysis. Regent Calderon indicated that the JCC had provided unparalleled access for private post-secondary to provide input and he thought this was a misunderstanding. Dr. Noone indicated she would concede that point. Mark Bryce questioned the costs that were being used in current legislation regarding Recommendation 4 and that the legislation was flawed because of this misinformation. Mr. Bryce also stated that the caveat for his support of the recommendations was that these are not exclusive means for addressing access to higher education. Dr. Glasper closed the discussion stating that these recommendations were monumental steps, that this dialogue on the recommendations would continue and be vetted at all levels, and that the Council would address how to respond to the recommendations at the next meeting of the Council. Dr. Glasper asked for any public comments to this discussion. There were none.

#### **4. Updates & Reports from Committee Chairs**

Pending the arrival of the Governor, Dr. Glasper skipped to the next item on the agenda, Updates & Reports from Committee Chairs. Dr. Glasper updated the Council on the formation of the new Steering Committee, indicated that he will Chair the Committee and that the membership consists of the four Committee Chairs and one at-large member representing business, still to be determined. Dr. Glasper then referred the Council to the new draft forms on the Roles & Responsibilities of the Council and Committees; a Committee information sheet; and a Request for Review Form. Dr. Glasper indicated that the Steering Committee is still working to finalize these forms, but asked for comments from the Council. After brief discussion, George Dean moved, and Dr. David Curd seconded, a motion to adopt the principles of these new draft forms and for the Steering Committee to finalize this framework for the Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Glasper then called for a brief break pending the arrival of Governor Napolitano.

#### **5. Presentation & Discussion: Alignment Project Report**

Dr. Glasper reconvened the meeting and welcomed Governor Napolitano. The Governor indicated that she was truly inspired by the Council's great work for Arizona's children. She indicated that the business community, such as GPL and ABEC, has been leaders in the P-20 movement and together advocated for action on assessing Arizona's alignment status. The Governor indicated that we must train students for jobs that pay well, provide a future and an opportunity for a career and give our K-12 students the tools with which to do this. While there have been similar national efforts to look at high school alignment, the Alignment

Project in Arizona is different in that it looks at our state's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. The Governor also thanked the Arizona Department of Commerce, the Governor's Council on Workforce Policy, the Governor's Council on Innovation and Technology in partnership with the Arizona Technology Council and the Southern Arizona Technology Council for their support in developing this important Report. The Governor cautioned, however, that while high school is the most high profile transition in the P-20 chain, as the Council listens to the presentation and considers the report, we must consider what we need to do before high school to prepare students for a high school experience that will get them the jobs of tomorrow.

The Governor then turned the presentation over to the Public Works team, Steve Bella, Dr. Rob Muller and Sidney Hacker.

Steve Bella provided an introduction of the Report, and that the emphasis of the report was to look at five major industries that have been targeted in Arizona where job growth or development will be occurring, and identify occupations within these industries that meet a defined high-wage, high-demand/high-growth standard and then to identify specific skills, education and training needed for these occupations. This information was then validated with industry focus groups. In tandem with this work, Public Works did an analysis on the preparedness of Arizona's high school students for postsecondary study and the workplace focusing on the adequacy of academic preparation and articulation with requirements for post secondary study.

Dr. Rob Muller indicated that the education section of the report focused on looking at the available student performance data, compared Arizona graduation requirements with post-secondary entry requirements as well as how these requirements compare nationally, examined the state standards and AIMS as a graduation requirement, and extrapolated what this information implies for Arizona's secondary education system. Sidney Hacker then presented the information on how high-wage, high-demand/high-growth occupations were identified within the industries, how the required skills, education and training needed for these occupations were analyzed, how this information was compared to secondary education requirements, and then summarized the roundtable results.

Steve Bella concluded the presentation with the general findings of the Report:

- College readiness needs to be the minimum requirement for high school graduates;
- Arizona high school graduates need to be prepared for both post secondary education and training and careers;
- High School rigor in applied math and reading comprehension is critical;
- Relevance in high school is critical;
- Insufficient data can hinder efforts to improve high school, postsecondary and workforce alignment.

Cindy Rudrud, Chair of the Alignment Project Committee, directed the Council to a form in their packet, and requested that Council members review the Report and provide comment for the Alignment Committee to consider as they begin to develop a framework for acting on the information provided by the Report. This information needs to be provided to Debra by Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Rudrud then briefly reviewed with the Council her first impressions of the Report.

Dr. Karen Butterfield passed out information on the Department of Education's High School Renewal Initiative and indicated that this Initiative focuses on alignment. Dr. Butterfield

expressed concern about moving too quickly and that the State was just now adjusting to high stakes testing. She also indicated that high school students were taking more advanced placement courses, that more students were taking advanced placement exams, and that scores were improving. Dr. Butterfield also expressed concern that career and technical education was not explored in detail in the Report.

The Council had discussion on the need to implement more rigorous courses as well as relevance into the curriculum; that the State needs to request a Lexile analysis of coursework; that public perception needed to be addressed; as well as the fact that there was a fundamental lack of understanding about education, what it takes to move forward, and on what being educated really means. There was also concern expressed about the current achievement gap in Arizona and how we must address this issue.

Governor Napolitano expressed the urgent need to define the courses required to graduate as well as course content that will prepare students for the post-secondary experience as well as for career readiness. The Governor expressed her willingness to work with Superintendent Horne in addressing the issues surrounding AIMS, high school renewal and graduation requirements. She also expressed the need for higher education leadership to tell us what they expect from K-12 education and then work from there in aligning education standards and graduation requirements. The Governor emphasized the need to move quickly to address the alignment issues and that we must raise expectations. Dr. Glasper stated we have heard the charge, asked the Council members to fill out the Report analysis sheet and return to Debra by February 24<sup>th</sup>, and indicated that the Steering Committee will begin to develop a framework to prioritize the issues. Dr. Glasper stated that there is an urgency to develop recommendations and move forward to align Arizona's P-20 system.

The Council had further discussion on the horrendous amount of funding spent on remediating students in community colleges; that the need to look at the data achievement gap is critical; that there is a need to set the bar high enough to do service to students; to have an integrated system; that there is a base level of education everyone needs to obtain regardless of their career pathway; the need for more resources; and the need to move aggressively to set the standard.

## **6. Call to the Public**

Anna Ciceros, a school counselor with the Mesa Public Schools District and representative of the Arizona School Counselors Association, addressed the P-20 Council and once again thanked the Council for their hard work. Ms. Ciceros indicated that Counselors are in the trenches proactively working to help the Council reach its goals.

Barbara Border, the Interim Director for Career & Technical Education, addressed the P-20 Council on the work ADE is doing to insure that academics and competencies are integrated into CTE standards. Ms. Border indicated that 65% of completers of CTE courses have successfully passed the AIMS test.

David Jones, President of the Arizona Contractors Association, stated that the construction industry is facing a crisis in meeting workforce demands. Mr. Jones indicated that the Association appreciated the opportunity to be invited to participate in the Alignment Project roundtables so that industry members could provide input into the Alignment Project Report.

Marie Mancuso addressed the P-20 Council regarding the standards development process, and that the standards are developed for all students. The Standards Committee consists of a majority of educators. Dr. Mancuso agreed that there is a huge awareness issue because the majority of their feedback is that the standards are too rigorous.

Mary Wolfe, Program Director for the Arizona Academic Scholars Initiative, addressed the P-20 Council regarding public perceptions of current rigor of education. She indicated that the Arizona Academic Scholars Initiative is now in 13 high schools around the state. Ms. Wolfe asked for the Council's support in bringing this initiative statewide so that every student can participate. Ms. Wolfe also expressed concern that students are opting out of difficult courses their senior year in order to improve their GPA.

## **7. Announcements and Adjournment**

Dr. Glasper announced that the next Meeting of the P-20 Council is March 16, 2006 at 10:00.a.m.

There being no further business, Dr. Glasper adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.